

Fort Sumter Sentinel



Planning for the Future

Fort Sumter National Monument was established in 1948 to commemorate the historical events at and surrounding Fort Sumter. The monument was enlarged in 1960 with the addition of Fort Moultrie, the National Park Service tour boat facility (formerly known as Dockside II) in 1986, and the Historic Coast Guard station in 1990. A General Management Plan (GMP) was published in 1998 to establish and guide the overall management, development and use of Fort Sumter National Monument in ways that best suit visitors while preserving the park’s cultural and natural resources. The objective of the GMP is to support the purpose for which the park was established and to formalize the park’s future direction.

The 1998 GMP recommended that water based visitor transportation to Fort Sumter leave from one primary departure point at the Fort Sumter visitor education center and dock on the west bank of the Cooper River now called Liberty Square. Since then, the Greater Charleston area has undergone many

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changes. After a recent review of governmental stakeholder perspectives, a National Park Service working group recognized the need to re-open the public discussion regarding the number and location of departure points. Therefore, the National Park Service is preparing a GMP Amendment and Environmental Assessment (EA) that will present and analyze alternatives in accordance with the Na-

tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations; and National Park Service policies and directives. While this planning process is on going, the current concession contract for the Fort Sumter ferry has been extended through December 2003, continuing ferry service from both Liberty Square and Patriots Point to Fort Sumter.



Fort Sumter National Monument provides valuable resources and experiences for a growing number of visitors who depend on ferry services.

A Message from the Superintendent...

The purpose of this newsletter is to announce the efforts the National Park Service will be taking to re-examine the General Man-

agement Plan (GMP) for Fort Sumter National Monument to address interests in allowing more than one departure point for the Fort Sumter ferry service. You are invited to participate in developing these alternative plans in the months to come. This newsletter provides some general background information and contacts for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you as we begin to amend the GMP.

Information Is Key to Effective Planning

We will be collecting information concerning the number of departure points, criteria, and visitor needs. Your input into this planning process is requested. Based upon information collected to date, secondary departure points will be considered based upon the following general criteria:

1. Any party who can provide ferry service to Fort Sumter must be able to compete fairly to leave from a secondary departure point.
2. Visitors have the opportunity to learn about the story of the Civil War at the secondary departure point through a variety of media meeting National Park Service standards for interpretation and exhibits.
3. Facilities must have access to a deep-water dock suitable for 300-passenger ferries.
4. Facilities must be accessible and meet National Park Service standards (for example, meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act).

These criteria will be further refined once additional information is



The GMP Amendment and Environmental Assessment will analyse alternatives for ferry service to Fort Sumter.

collected. Alternatives proposed for your consideration include the following:

1. No Action: This alternative would be to implement the 1998 GMP as written and approved. The park's GMP directed that visitors board the Fort Sumter ferry at one location, the new Liberty Square.
2. Two ferry departure points, one at Liberty Square and one in

Mt. Pleasant, with a connecting shuttle between the two departure points.

3. Two ferry departure points: Liberty Square and Mt. Pleasant.
4. One ferry departure point from Liberty Square with a connecting shuttle between Mt. Pleasant and Liberty Square
5. Other alternatives developed based upon public input.

What's Next

The National Park Service appreciates your early input into this process and solicits your feedback. Because we are on an expedited schedule to complete this assessment, we request that you provide your comments at the meetings scheduled, or email or mail your comments to the addresses below by **March 14, 2003**.

By phone: John Tucker
843-727-4740 ext. 0

By email: fosu_gmp@nps.gov

Please visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/fosu/gmp/index.htm>

Mailing Address:
National Park Service
Fort Sumter
National Monument
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482
Attn: John Tucker,
Superintendent

Meetings - Opportunity for Input

The National Park Service is seeking input into the alternatives and criteria for secondary departure points and we will be holding several meetings to collect your feedback. You are invited to attend any of the following meetings.

Location - North Charleston
City Hall
4900 Lacross Road
North Charleston, SC 29406
Tuesday, March 4, 5-7 p.m.

Location - Charleston
Charleston Metro Chamber
81 Mary Street
Charleston, SC 29402
Wednesday, March 5, 4-6 p.m.

Location - Mt. Pleasant
Town of Mount Pleasant Municipal Complex
Council Chambers
100 Ann Edwards Lane
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
Thursday, March 6, 5-7 p.m.

Additional data collection activities will include meetings with agency personnel and local interested parties. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please contact the park.